

TOCH JOURNAL

October
1957



NEWS • VIEWS • IDEAS



PUBLISHED BY TOCH AT FORTY-SEVEN
FRANCIS STREET - LONDON - S.W.1

9D.

Sir Colin Jardine

We deeply regret to announce the sudden death on Tuesday, September 24 of Major-General Sir Colin Jardine, Bt., C.B., D.S.O., M.C., Hon. Commissioner for Toc H Services Clubs Overseas.

CHRISTMAS CARDS AND DIARIES

Despite increased costs of production, all three varieties of this year's Christmas Cards are being offered for sale at a uniform charge of 5s. 6d. per dozen, which includes envelopes, purchase tax and postage. Fuller details are printed at the end of this number together with particulars of the 1958 edition of the Toc H Diary. It will greatly help if you will please order early, and send cash with order.

THIS IS TOC H . . .

The text of Barclay Baron's talk on the B.B.C. Home Service for the Toc H Appeal has been reprinted for use as an introductory leaflet and copies are available from the Publications Department at 3s. 6d. per 100, post free.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We are indebted to the "Eastern Daily Press" for the cover picture and to the "Derby Evening Telegraph" for the picture reproduced on page 355.

OURSELVES

The Toc H Journal is published monthly, eleven times a year. The April issue is a double number and there is no August number. A subscription can commence with any issue and costs only 9s. for a complete year.

N.B.—A price concession to 7s 6d. per dozen, post free, is made to all Branches ordering a minimum of one dozen copies.

THIRTY-FIFTH YEAR OF PUBLICATION

TOCH JOURNAL

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NEWS • VIEWS • IDEAS

Letters and articles are welcomed and are printed as individual points of view, and are not necessarily those of the Movement

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Together with a List of
Headquarters, Areas and Houses of Toc H

Cover Picture :

Officials of Eaton Allotment Society handing over a fine collection of surplus garden produce to local Toc H members for distribution to old people.

Photograph by courtesy of Eastern Daily Press

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IN AND OUT

Notes and Comment

Within our Gates

THE DEMAND FOR ACCOMMODATION IN ANY of the seventeen Toc H Marks in this country is nearly always ahead of the number of beds available, and most Marks have waiting-lists of would-be residents. Naturally enough, the majority of Marks-men are of British nationality; but it is interesting to note that a census made last April showed 29 Asians and Africans, in addition to 25 non-British Europeans living in Marks on that date, while during the previous twelve months no less than 60 Asians and Africans and 102 non-British Europeans shared in Mark life. Of course, these figures are tiny in proportion to the large numbers of overseas students at present living in Britain, but the experiences gained with the Family of these 'strangers within our gates' may prove to be of considerable importance after their return to their own countries.

Sea Rescue

ON THE LAST DAY OF THEIR WEEK'S HOLIDAY in Colwyn Bay, two teen-age girls were saved from almost certain death in a gale, but two local boys with whom they went out in a tiny skiff were drowned. The youngsters' plight was seen by Mr. H. J. Wilman, the borough surveyor and his chief clerk, Leslie Hill. The two men dashed to the beach, towing by car a small outboard motor boat and launched it into a rising sea. Buffeted by the waves, after several unsuccessful attempts they managed to get a towing-line to the skiff, but their outboard motor then failed and the skiff started to sink. Unable in the heavy swell to make any headway by rowing, they managed to pick up the two girls, but the boys were swept beyond their reach and out to sea. Help came from the Llandudno lifeboat, which took on board the girls and their rescuers, but despite an extensive search was unable to find the boys. Incidentally, Leslie Hill is secretary of the new Toc H group at Mochdre, near Colwyn Bay.

'With One Voice'

of £4,500. This includes, among other anonymous sums, £1,000 plus tax under a seven-year Deed of Covenant towards the replacement of a London Mark. Contributions to the appeal are still coming in daily and more will be welcomed.

Call for Braille

THE COMMONWEALTH SOCIETY FOR THE Blind is appealing to Braille readers in Britain for gifts of Braille books and apparatus urgently needed by the blind in other parts of the Commonwealth where the cost of equipping the many new schools and training centres is beyond the resources at present available. Toc H Mark XX, 67 Upper Richmond Road, Putney, S.W.15, have agreed to act as the collecting and distributing centre. In the notice which is to appear shortly in Braille magazines throughout the U.K., blind donors who are in any difficulty about the packing and posting of their books to Mark XX are being advised to approach the local Toc H Branch for help in this. Any Toc H Branch that wants to make contact with local blind folk in connection with the scheme can do so by consulting the Blind Welfare Officer of the County or County Borough Council, or their local blind association.

Tape

Recordings NOW THAT MACHINES FOR RECORDING AND playing-back speech are no longer a novelty, members are becoming increasingly aware of the possibilities they offer in helping to overcome the distance that divides. Recent examples have been John Callf's commentary on his recent overseas tour and Stan Berwick's conversation piece on the Family Purse. One Branch, in the Isle of Wight, is 'in correspondence' by tape with another Branch on the mainland and from the same source comes a suggestion that any Branches who feel themselves a little isolated from the main stream of the Family might like to join in a scheme for providing 'speeches' from a library of tape-recordings to which they had themselves contributed a three-inch reel (sufficient for a full-length talk). This idea has the merit of being inexpensive and we should be glad to hear from any Branches interested in the proposal.

Our Contribution to Industry

by HERBERT LEGGATE

THOSE WHO HEARD Mr Goyder's speech at the Central Council will have since read it eagerly in the July JOURNAL, and the report of the subsequent discussion printed in the September issue. I hope that very many others have also read them. Most contributions on industrial problems concern themselves with theories on how to deal with concrete things such as wage increases and profit restrictions. However dispassionately they may be stated they have normally a recognisable partisan background. As a result they are read mainly by those who share that background and if they make out a good case they are read with approval and gratitude. They are less likely to be read by those whose point of view (or prejudices) are different. If they are read it is in order to discover weaknesses in the argument which can be attacked. In other words they are regarded as propaganda and are treated as such.

Right relationships

Those who heard Mr Goyder's speech realised that it was different. It was different because it recognised that industrial problems are all in the last analysis problems of relationships between people rather than between contending ideas. It recognised that without right human relationships no solutions are workable. Masters and men must learn to care enough for each other to share each other's hopes and fears if they are ever to work together harmoniously. Anything that can lead to such understanding is immensely valuable. We were told that Toc H ought to have a vital contribution to make. We all agreed but most of us came away asking ourselves what that contribution ought to be. I hope that all who have read the booklet are still seeking an answer to that question.

Points of view

In future numbers of the JOURNAL it is hoped that members will express themselves about situations in industry that perplex and exasperate them. An attempt will be made to show what creates these situations. These articles will not

give detached explanations but will be expressions of points of view that are deeply felt. Before they begin to appear we ought to ask ourselves an old question with a new sense of urgency. What sort of a society is Toc H? Most of us know that it is different from any other society but in what way is it different? We ought not to be content merely to say that it is a Christian society which stands for Fellowship and Service. This is true but it begs the question. There are other societies which could make a similar claim. It exists to pass on to future generations a spirit which in a greater or lesser degree existed amongst all ranks during the first World War. If we cannot pass this on, however much men may praise Toc H it has failed. What was this spirit? I can only say what it meant to me. It meant a new appreciation of the worth of everyman. I discovered that all men were worth knowing. Even those who had seemed to have no redeeming qualities often displayed a grandeur of selflessness that was breathtaking. For the first time in my life I was living with people with whom I should have felt in peacetime I had little or nothing in common. A few were religious but most of them cared nothing for formal religion. Some of them were educated, others half educated and some completely illiterate. Possessions did not count since all had few and none wished to add to their number since they were an added load to carry. Some had all the vices they knew about and if a new one swung into their ken they adopted it. But from the most unlikely of men at times a splendour which must have been the splendour of God shone forth. Each was for all and all were for each in pursuit of a common goal. We were closely knit in danger in the way a family is closely knit. I began to see that we belonged to each other in spite of our differences just because we were in actual fact members of one family. Those who in the first days spread Toc H did so because they were possessed by the desire to carry over into the peace that spirit of kinship which beautified even the ugliness of war.

Mixture of men

Clearly this could not be done if we closed ourselves in with our own kind. We must bring together groups of men who differed deeply from each other. There is nothing remarkable in caring for those who share our own prejudices, principles, customs and manners. Thus the more varied the mixture of men in the group the greater the achievement that

becomes possible. Men of all kinds were called to serve others. They became interested in each other as they soon discovered that it is possible to hate another man's views and yet care for him. From the earliest days it has been stressed that Toc H is a family. There will be quarrels but the family must not be broken by them. In the family the most painful things that divide can be faced with a deep desire to understand.

Certain things follow. If we are to be a family we cannot be a pressure group for any cause however good it may be. Even though 99 per cent of our members are in favour of a good cause we cannot commit the family to it and so shut out the remaining 1 per cent. Some may say "Then what good is Toc H?" What can it achieve?

A new spirit

We must be clear about this. Within the family there are some who when they join it already possess strong convictions. Others through the family find convictions. They are called to be passionately loyal to their convictions. If they are loyal, although Toc H may not be a propagandist movement or a pressure group it will pour into society and into pressure groups men who will approach their tasks in a new spirit emptied of all bitterness. When a Toc H Branch has within its membership those who are on opposite sides in a conflict of any kind, it can achieve much. It can help to create an atmosphere in which the way of peace can be found. If in a time of conflict it has no such mixture it cannot make the contribution for which as we believe God made Toc H.

Members were stirred by the speech at the Central Council. If it went deep enough, there will be groups of men who are on opposing sides coming together in order to understand each other and to help the truth to prevail. Only men who thus see each other newly can make a new and better world.



NOTE: Copies of Mr. Goyder's address "Human Factors in Industry" published in the July issue can be obtained from Toc H Publications Department, 47 Francis Street, London, S.W.1. Price 6d. each (postage 2d.).

'NO MORE UNCLEAN'

by BARCLAY BARON

AS THE YEARS OF LIFE GO ON they add continually to the gallery of pictures in one's mind, and it is a wonderful trick of the mind to be instantly ready to bring them out at will long afterwards—these familiar landscapes, these portraits once seen but never forgotten. I shall never forget the one afternoon I spent with fellow-members of Toc H at Westfort.

We drove out in hot sunshine, two car-loads of us, from Pretoria to the great Leper Hospital maintained by the South African Government. For the others it was a routine fortnightly visit—a routine never grown stale, for me a new experience. As we drove gaily up the magnificent avenue of trees to the entrance I had moments of secret trepidation. This was dissipated very quickly and completely as we made our round of the little one-roomed 'cottages' in which the white patients are at home, often for the best part of a life-time.

Some were out on their *stoep*, the little verandah, among bright flowers to welcome us, some we found resting on their beds within. One, the crumpled body of a man, hands and feet gone, lifted sightless eyes to us with a twisted smile on his mutilated, ageless face, but the spirit that still burned behind that mask lit up his little room. Another, a man finely built, in the prime of life, came out from his bathroom to meet me with a towel round his waist: only a few pale patches of skin on his broad chest betrayed his secret as we talked together about the favourite books in his little library.

And there was the small white-haired lady who had lost both feet but was still working with the stumps of her wrists as she sat in the sun in her wheeled chair; she received us affectionately as a mother, regally as a queen. In many cases the talk and the jokes were in Africaans speech at which I can only guess, but the language of fellowship needs no dictionary.

In the middle of the afternoon the Westfort members met in an assembly room—the only Branch of Toc H in the world where every member (except the chairman) was a leper.

I took 'Light' with the Lamp bearing the name of Father Damien, the heroic Belgian priest who devoted his life to lepers more than eighty years ago and died, a leper, in the Sandwich Islands. I tried to give the meeting a message from all of us, their fellow-members, and at the end the chairman rose to hand me an envelope. It contained five £1 South African notes, saved out of the half-crown pocket money of Westfort members; it was to be used, they said, for "someone in need at home".

Towards a cure

The last engagement of our little team that afternoon was tea with the Medical Superintendent and his wife in their house on the hill above the Hospital. I asked him if this Toc H invasion every fortnight was not rather an intrusion on the work of the Hospital. He rounded on me at once with, "I wouldn't do without it for anything. It brings the outside world to my patients and that is part of their cure".

Cure! That magical word was the slogan of a revolution which was going on in Westfort at the time of my visit. The long and irksome treatment of leprosy with *chaulmoogra* oil was just giving place to the new sulphone drugs which promised to defy the age-long curse of this disease as if with a miracle. Those treated with the new drugs had to be examined every month for a year by a Medical Board and only twelve 'positive' reactions, without a single 'negative', qualified them for discharge.

Conquest

The first Board had just sat, amid feverish excitement among all the patients. A big rejoicing batch was now due to go out, "symptom-free"; those who had failed to pass the test were often in deep depression. The drugs had come too late to rescue the mutilated man I had seen; they had shown one 'negative' in the case of the fine figure of a man whose books I had admired and he was now facing another twelve months of incarceration in a defiant mood. Just now the extremes of thanksgiving or resignation, of hope or despair, filled all the corners of this withdrawn little world of suffering and courage. Since my visit the new drugs have established their conquest in so many cases that the Westfort Branch of Toc H (as last April JOURNAL very movingly told us) has closed down, not for lack of faithfulness but of membership.

The unique and most moving story of the Branch at Westfort has now been told in close detail by a South African member (*No More Unclean!* by E. T. Lawson. Published by Peter Davies. 16s.). This is no summary picture like mine, flashed on the mind in the few hours of an afternoon, but the true record of a regular member of the visiting team. It is a Toc H book through and through and should be read proudly, yet humbly, by every Toc H member. It is cast in the form of a novel, but the incidents and the characters, whether of patients or of visitors, are so near life that I guess they will be identified by those who have known Westfort well through the years. One name at least is never disguised, the noble name of Lady Mary Baring, wife of the present Governor of Kenya, who played an intimate part in the life of Westfort. Some of the characters will not readily be forgotten—young Peter, old Grumbleguts, the heroic figure of Koos (if there be one hero among so many), the great-hearted Mary, released after forty-five years of leprosy only to be rejected by an uncomprehending world. The style of the book is so straightforward that it seems artless. But is there no art in a book which leads a reader over the brink of tears?

OLIVIER

Tipped Cigarettes

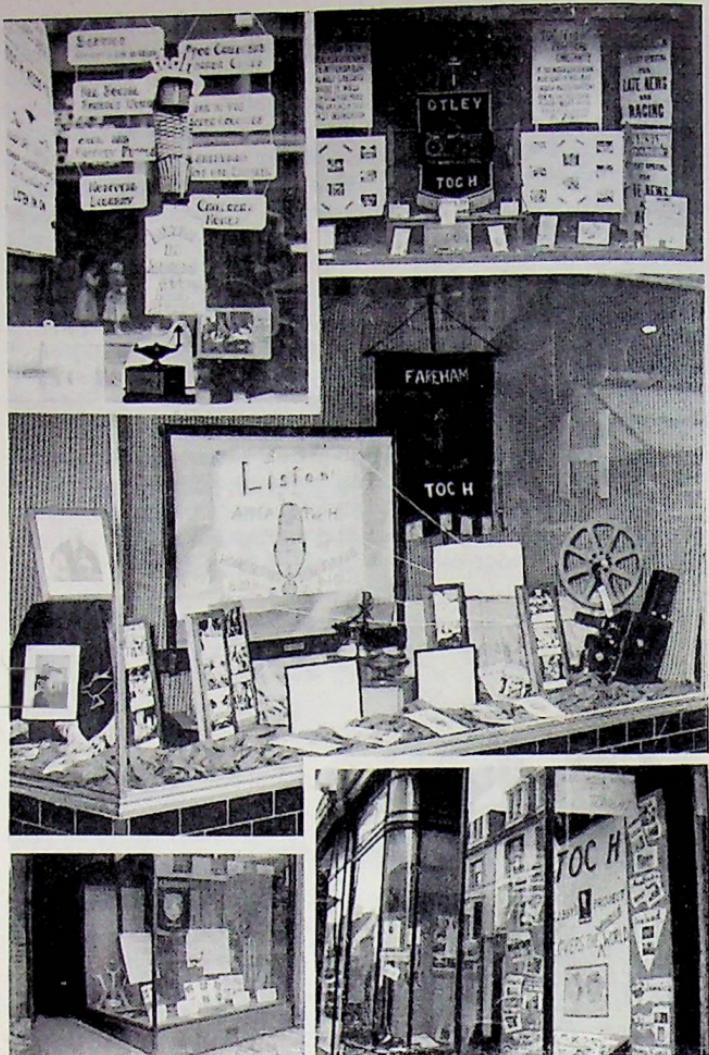


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Shop-window displays arranged by many Branches provided valuable publicity for the recent B.B.C. Appeal. Picture shows, at top, those of Blackpool and Otley; centre Fareham and, at bottom, Ashford and Tunbridge Wells.

MULTUM || MUCH IN PARVO || IN LITTLE

¶ VERB. SAP. (A word is enough to the Branch Treasurer): The financial year of Toc H ends on October 31.

¶ This year Toc H is another twenty-one years old and its BIRTHDAY will be celebrated by the World Chain of Light, when Toc H will be forty-two and Tubby seventy-two, and by the Festival in London on the Saturday before. Some of the personalities to be seen and heard on December 7 are pictured on another page.

¶ The Very Important People at this FESTIVAL will be the members of groups and new Branches. In other Branches, where there is a choice, let it go to those probationers and members who are too young in Toc H to have been to a national gathering before.

¶ Whether he calls it the NATIONAL or the BRITISH or just the BIRTHDAY FESTIVAL, the Branch Secretary is the man to ask. Branch members should tell him if they and their families want tickets, including "party travel". General Members should notify the Secretary of their Area (or Central) Branch.

¶ Toc H Builders will be welcome to attend the FESTIVAL by arrangement with their local Branch Secretary or, if not accessible, by direct application to The Festival Secretary at 47 Francis Street, London, S.W.1. This also applies to visitors from overseas within reach of London on December 7.

¶ THE WORLD CHAIN OF LIGHT will start at Kampala, Uganda, and will be observed from there westward to the Pacific on Wednesday, December 11, and from New Zealand to East Africa on the following day, at each place in turn at 9 p.m. by local time.

¶ For use at that time by each Branch, led by three readers, AN ACT OF DEVOTION, based on the Main Resolution and the Four Points of the Compass, has been compiled by the Hon. Commissioner in Uganda, Charles Potts. Copies are available at Headquarters and in Areas, price 1s. a set, post free.

Concerning Fellowship

by JOHN GREEN

WHEN I WAS A BOY there hung in my bedroom a picture which made a lasting impression on my mind. It was a picture of a sleigh being pursued by wolves. One of the three occupants was about to jump into the howling mob in order to give his two younger companions the chance to escape. Underneath it said quite simply "Greater love hath no man".

In seeking to define Fellowship, and to get to the core of its meaning, I find myself returning constantly to this theme of Greater Love. It is within the framework of such a theme that I shall try, with diffidence, to give you my definition of Fellowship.

I have had the good fortune in the past five years or so to be invited to visit a good many different Branches, and I have been struck by the different atmospheres emanating therefrom. Almost at once I can tell the Branch where Fellowship abounds. I am enclosed in its warmth and I feel I belong. I relax, talk more freely, listen more intently, pray with more conviction, and go home uplifted. Why? And how has that Branch achieved it, and what are the elements of this intangible thing called Fellowship?

Creating conditions

The first need to my mind is that the critical faculty should in the main be suspended. Fellowship is of the heart and not of the mind, and that means believing the best of the other members, often against what we call our better judgement. The suspension of our critical faculty against the ideas, actions and motives of our fellows will be the first step in attaining a high degree of fellowship. It will help to create the conditions under which every member feels he can be natural, be his real self, and to stop hiding behind the façade he puts up to the outside world.

The suspension of the critical faculty will lead us to the next step of having faith in our fellow members. We must then demonstrate that faith by believing that each member of the Branch is doing his best. This may not at first be a fact

but we must believe it is in order to make it so. As soon as we feel that any one member is not contributing what we think is a fair share then our faith becomes clouded, this magic of fellowship is dissipated and he falls to the level expected of him, using this fall as a kind of defensive mechanism. Of course this sort of faith must be a two-way relationship as each one of us must strive to reach the standard the others expect of us. However, it is this reaching out for the best in ourselves and in each other, that is the really big step in creating, fostering, and maintaining, fellowship. It is a practical and continuing demonstration on how to express love of fellow men in the Christian sense of the word.

This reaching out for the best in ourselves and in each other creates a strong feeling of belonging to each other and produces a relationship which will withstand the stresses to which all of us as human beings are subject.

If you find it difficult to believe this look at it the other way. Have not all of us had experience of the fellowship breaking down, and on examination have we not traced it, in the main, to a loss of faith in each other? I for one am very conscious of my failures in this direction.

Regular renewal

This process of having complete faith in each other needs regular renewal, rather like an electric battery. It cannot be maintained unless it is practiced at regular intervals. The very nature of such delicate relationships demands a frequent revival of each other's spirits, which tend to tire under the disappointments of ordinary living. Let me remind you that Toc H is no ordinary living. It is larger than life like the theatre or the radio, and possesses an element of magic which calls forth the highest qualities of imagination. Not least it must sustain us from one meeting until just before the next, when we have to decide to go along to the Branch in all kinds of weather and against our inclination to stay at home. If by our constant and regular participation in this fellowship we play our part in creating this magic, then few things will keep us away. We shall be drawn to each other and miss each other when we are absent. I imagine that it was the magnetism of Christ's personality and his ability to create this sense of fellowship that turned ordinary men like the disciples into giants.

Constant attendance and regular acts of fellowship will lead to the next step; that of giving. We have to learn a lesson that cannot be learned except through the experience of this kind of fellowship. It cannot be learned any other way, possibly because it doesn't make sense through normal channels of living. Unselfishness makes sense only when we are conscious of a feeling of family, a feeling of belonging, or a feeling that we want to demonstrate that this inward fellowship has an outward expression. Selfishness is a form of self preservation which is probably man's strongest hereditary characteristic, and yet when we reach this point in our fellowship we recognise that only by its elimination do we even approach becoming Men of God.

All of self and none of Thee
Some of self and some of Thee
Less of self and more of Thee
None of self and All of Thee

That seems to be the way and I expect most of us would be glad if we could get as far as the second line.

Faith in the future

The attainment of some measure of unselfishness will lead us to the final element in fellowship—faith in mankind. The more distant our relationship the more difficult it becomes to have faith, and yet we must continue to have faith in God's purpose for mankind or else we shall find it difficult to continue the struggle. Man in any form has been on this earth for only a few thousand years and in historical terms Christ lived only yesterday. It would seem to me therefore that we are at the beginning of a long journey, and we must keep before us the importance of the things we do in our lives because it is certain that they will have a profound influence on the lives of generations to come. We must feel that we are the instruments of a great purpose and that we are a part of a great future. Then and then only will we see our efforts at Fellowship and Love in their true focus and only then will these efforts have true purpose. Although we shall never see the end we shall know we are contributing to it, and in doing so play our part in Branch life, in local and national life, in industrial life, as a tiny but infinitely precious and vital part of Man's history and his journey to an understanding of God.

Outwardly all men are different, but underneath we belong to each other. Like coals on a fire we burn most brightly in contact with one another and when fanned by the strong winds of the spirit. Part us from our fellows, cease the winds —and we die.

The first men of Toc H had just passed through an experience as a result of which many died that we might live. We can do no better than strive in love and fellowship to serve our fellow men and with God's help take a tiny step towards the destination He has in mind for us. Greater Love. . . .

Operation Hungary Host

by RUPERT BLISS

The writer, a former Toc H staff Padre, is warden of Dunford, the Sussex birthplace and home of Richard Cobden, a famous nineteenth century reformer, which now receives people from all over the world, in groups or individually, who wish to see something of the English countryside and its life and institutions.

IN THE MIDDLE OF JULY, seventeen Hungarian Refugees attended a course at Dunford, Midhurst, to study various aspects of the English way of life. Ten were men and seven women, and they had been carefully selected from amongst several thousands in order that during the coming winter they might go around the country meeting groups of their fellow Hungarians and recounting their impressions.

The ground covered in the course was very wide, from farm life to a Mayoral reception, and from Cathedral worship to the duties of the local Constabulary. However, the course could not have been complete without an insight into the lives of ordinary English families. It was therefore decided that the climax of the fortnight should be a week-end distribution of all the Hungarians, one by one, into various typical homes somewhere in the vicinity.

Who could organise this better than Toc H? The whole project was handed over to Bob Knight, who in his turn passed the job to the groups in the Portsmouth/Petersfield area; and hospitality was arranged for every member of the party, including the minutest details for transport to and from the various reception points by motor coach. However,

things do not always work out exactly as we plan and the scheme was struck broadside on by the full blast of the 'bus strike. But we were not to be defeated and a whole fleet of private cars and taxis was organised at the last minute. This makeshift was carried through almost without a hitch, the one exception being the bushing of two members of the exploration in the vast expanses of Portsmouth Guildhall Square.

On the Sunday evening, after their return to Dunford, the Hungarians met together to share their experiences. They all reported having had a delightful and educative time interspersed with some amusing incidents. One Hungarian, who was intent on establishing the names of all the rooms in an English home, spent a long time battling with his host in the effort to discover where the Mushroom was situated.

Corporately the project was a resounding success and nothing else in the whole course came anywhere near giving the Hungarians so good an impression of our English way of life. It seemed to me that this was a Toc H job *par excellence*, and from my sending-end I can say upon my heart that it was a job well and soundly done.

AT THE FESTIVAL LONDON — DECEMBER 7

Brief notes on four of the men who will be taking an active share in this year's Toc H Birthday Festival, either at the Festival Services or in the Royal Albert Hall.

THE REV. S. AUSTEN WILLIAMS, M.A.



At the Festival Service in Westminster Abbey the Preacher will be the Rev. Austen Williams, who is widely known to radio and television audiences. Austen served for eight years (1940-48) as a member of Toc H staff, mainly in the London Areas, and while engaged on Toc H war service work was taken prisoner during the German advance through Flanders in 1940, enduring captivity until the Liberation in 1944. Later, he joined the staff of St. Martin-in-the-Fields and, in 1951, became vicar of St. Albans, Clifton, until 1956 when he returned to London to become vicar of St. Martin's. His hobbies include photography and bird-watching.

THE REV. ARTHUR HOWARD, M.A.

Arthur Howard, who will conduct and preach at the Festival Service in Westminster Chapel, was born in Australia where he graduated in the University of Adelaide and came to Oxford just prior to the First World War. Interned in the notorious Ruhleben Prison Camp, near Berlin, 1914-18, returned to Oxford in 1919 to complete his studies and thereafter to the University of Cambridge from which he entered the Presbyterian Ministry. A travelling secretary in the S.C.M.; Minister in the Presbyterian Church at North Shields and in Liverpool. Branch Padre at North Shields from 1928 onwards and in other units in Liverpool. North Western Area Padre 1933-1936, Scotland 1936-9. Minister of Windsor Place Presbyterian Church, Cardiff 1939-1946, member of Welsh Area Executive. From 1946 Minister of Lansdowne Church of Scotland in Glasgow, and honorary Area Padre for Scotland.



FREDERICK C. BRABY, M.C., D.L., M.I.Mech.E.



During World War I, Eric Braby, who will be speaking at the Festival Evening, was awarded the Military Cross while serving with the Lancashire Fusiliers. A member of many years standing, he was at one time Warden of Mark IX, Bristol, and later of Mark XV, Woolwich. He has held many offices in Toc H, including the Central Executive, Chairman of S.E. London and the Guard of the Lamp, and has given much time to Scouting, being at present the Kent County Commissioner. In the business world he is the Chairman and

Managing Director of Fredk. Braby & Co. Ltd., and President of the Engineering and Allied Employers' Federation. A Freeman of the City of London and Deputy Lieutenant of Kent since 1955, his hobbies include scouting and fishing—whenever time permits.

OLIVER MARLOW WILKINSON

The Area Secretary for Oxford & Thames Valley, who will be producing the Masque at the Festival Evening, was educated at Westminster School and from there graduated to the School of Drama at the Embassy Theatre, where his play "Ishmael" won the Sybil Thorndike prize. Work with the Community Theatre in London's East End was interrupted by World War II during which he served as a telegraphist in the Royal Navy. On release from nautical duties he became producer-director of the Oxford Playhouse and has since been actively associated with the Pilgrim Players. More recently his play, *How Can We Save Father?* attracted considerable attention when it was produced at the Royal Court Theatre, London, this year.



The Elder Brethren

*At the going down of the sun and in the morning
We will remember them*

ALEXANDER.—On August 14, W. F. ALEXANDER ('Alex'), a member of Dunedin Branch, and for many years Editor of "Toc H New Zealand".

BALL.—On July 31, HARRY BALL, aged 73, a member of Llandudno Branch. Elected 1.11.'44.

BENNETT.—On August 12, the Rev. HERBERT EDWARD BENNETT, aged 65, a member of Plympton Branch. Elected 30.6.'49.

BUZER.—On August 3, LEONARD BUZER, aged 48, a member of Barking Branch. Elected 14.10.'32.

DOWNES.—On September 7, the Rev. R. DOUGLAS DOWNES, (Brother Douglas of the Society of St Francis), aged 79.

ELLERBY.—On June 27, HERBERT H. ELLERBY, aged 42, a member of Spilsby Branch. Elected 19.10.'33.

FARNSWORTH.—On June 2, WALTER HARDY FARNSWORTH, aged 66, a member of Consett Branch. Elected 13.5.'30.

FAULKNER.—On July 14, ARTHUR HERMON FAULKNER, aged 63, a member of Eastbourne Branch. Elected 9.2.'33.

HALL.—In August, WILLIAM WARBURTON HALL, aged 36, a member of St. Annes-on-Sea Branch. Elected 18.1.'46.

MADANAT.—On June 26, NICOLA MADANAT, of the Jordan Army and a member of Catterick Camp Branch. Elected 17.6.'57.

RICHARDSON-JONES.—On June 8, CYRIL LESLIE RICHARDSON-JONES, aged 42, a member of Heston Branch. Elected 2.10.'47.

TURNER.—Suddenly on August 6, GEORGE ALBERT TURNER, aged 46, a member of Crowborough Branch. Elected 10.5.'55.

WALLS.—On August 3, NORMAN WALLS, aged 65, a member of Skegness Branch. Elected 13.5.'30.

WHITE.—On June 25, EDWARD GEORGE WHITE, aged 55, a member of Maidstone Branch. Elected 1.6.'25.

WILD.—Suddenly on July 23, VICTOR WILD, aged 49, a member of Oldham Branch. Elected 27.8.'50.

In Memoriam : Brother Douglas

When Douglas Downes passed on in the Hostel of God, a free home for the dying in London, on September 7, Toc H lost a very old friend and the world a man pledged to poverty but making many rich. Before the first war he took over Flowers Farm in a Dorset valley and built up there an Anglican brotherhood of St Francis which has since increased steadily in numbers. In his brown Franciscan habit he tramped the roads of England, penniless himself, to serve 'wayfarers' (he never used the word 'tramp'); he lived half his time in workhouse wards and doss-houses, collecting

unfortunates, especially the younger men, for his Home in Dorset where he built them up as best he might to face life usefully again. To him all these were simply 'Brothers'.

At the end of the second War he found a wonderful new opportunity to live the Gospel in a camp of badly mutilated German soldiers outside Hamburg. He had a great measure of the humility and the humour of St Francis himself. Wherever he went he carried with him the confidence and the joy of the Christian faith.

B.B.

* * *

We went together in the afternoon in order to obtain the dying Blessing of Brother Douglas in the partnership which he himself conceived some months ago. We found him quiet and quite near the Stream—hands were already stretched to welcome him and greetings from Beyond seemed to be absorbing him as he lay there. Yet none the less he roused himself to lay his hands on both our heads as we desired.

When he returned to human consciousness, he made a message of the Toc H Prayer, which he continued slowly to repeat. He told us in authoritative tones that it was his belief and his conviction that this prayer represents the finest four-square code in Christendom. He made this statement with the utmost calm, and sealed it with repeated emphasis.

"This is" he said, "the best prayer that I know. A man who lives by this day after day must become Christian in his heart and conduct. It nerves his courage. It induces patience. It stresses outlook. It inspires good deeds. You scarcely know the treasure you have got. See that it is more widely recognised."

I told him that the prayer was not my own. It had its origin in Knutsford days, and I then altered it to some extent, by drawing on St Francis House at Woolwich. He said that this confirmed his clear conviction that there could be no better prayer for men in modern phraseology than this. He was rejoiced to hear of its translation and distribution in other tongues and languages.

We left him for a space, and then returned for our last moments, when again he said the Toc H Prayer with the four gathered there. One came from Kent, and one from the North Midlands, while Dick and I knelt for All Hallows Church. Then we went back to the Brothers' House together, and parted quietly at Evensong.

P.B.C.

FAIR CRY

NOTES AND NEWS
FROM DISTANT PARTS

Contributed by GEOFF MARTIN



CENTRAL AFRICAN COUNCIL

Members of TOC H Central Africa at the Council Meeting on July 8 in Salisbury. Sir Robert Tredgold, Hon. Commissioner, is in the centre and John Donkin, Chairman, is on his right. Other familiar faces, no less important, have been identified at the Overseas Office with the help of Ken Cleave, who took the photograph.

TOC H AFLOAT

THE TOC H GROUP in *H.M.A.S. Melbourne* is only a small one, so far as actual members go, but there are a number of interested visitors at most meetings.

The group, soon after its formation, adopted the Ryde Home for Sub-normal Children, in Sydney. During the last period in the Far East, the group procured a large number of toys and presented them to the Home. During the present tour of duty in the Far East the group has had eighteen special desks made. Through the good offices of the Reverend Jimmy Froud, of St John's Church of England Cathedral, Hong Kong, the tables were made by a group of lads at the Mission of the Church of the Holy Carpenter. This is a rehabilitation centre designed to help lads who have been in trouble, or who have not had much opportunity in life, to fit themselves for a useful place in the community. The desks are made of teak

and the workmanship is excellent. A donation of £A36 was made towards the work of the home and to help defray the cost of the timber. Of this amount, £10 was contributed by *H.M.A.S. Melbourne's* welfare fund and £26 by members and friends of the group.

The desks are being transported to Australia in *H.M.A.S. Melbourne* and on arrival in Sydney the Jobmaster will organise their delivery to the Ryde Home. Thus the Toc H group has been able to link helping hands across the oceans from boys of the East to boys and girls of the West.

Lifted from *New South Wales News-Sheet*.

FARMERS OF NATAL

An up-to-date Report from Albert Charles on recent developments at Talbot Manor, Natal's Pilot Farm Scheme, condensed from *The Compass*.

This article heralds the establishment of a new era, for Toc H's first rural Mark is now established on a full-time basis, and I find myself a full-timer of a type totally new in Toc H. Not for me the endless round of Branches—encouraging, exhorting, inspiring ; for me the placid tranquillity of a rural environment. The facts of the matter are quite simple and soon told. It had become abundantly clear that unless a full-time resident manager was employed, there was very little chance of the Mark serving the purpose for which it was originally acquired. With this conviction so strongly upon me I decided to offer my services as resident manager of the Manor. This offer was prompted by two desires ; to live on the land, and to serve Toc H.

On January 31, I wound up my business partnership, and on February 6, accompanied by 'Mally' and 'Ajax' (Natal Area Secretary and my alsatian), moved into Talbot Manor. Let's take stock of the Mark as it existed then. Twenty-five acres of land under grass, mostly kikuyu ; a small stream, a borehole and a natural, undeveloped spring ; several fences, all in need of repair ; three dilapidated sheds, and a house which had seen better days. Our livestock consisted of about a dozen fowls of different breeds, and hordes of rats.

The plan of the committee is, broadly, this : to establish the Mark as a self-supporting small-holding, and to put the house in a fit state to enable the prosecution of the main objects of the Mark, namely, to provide a rallying point for Toc H and to use it to render service in the usual Toc H tradition. (At the time of writing, a scheme for assisting in the rehabilitation of deserving ex-prisoners has been mooted ; in addition, the local Branch of

A.A. is considering asking our co-operation.). On the farming side, we propose to farm poultry, pigs, cows and vegetables, plus a certain amount of feed for the animals. Animals need housing, and this constituted our first problem. Transport costs make the use of ordinary bricks uneconomical. We purchased a mould and started making concrete blocks. In due course we made enough to erect our first building—a brooder house. We completed this building on May 31—just five weeks after we had taken delivery of our first batch of day-old chicks. . . . We now have five pigs. Four of these were donated by Dundee Branch, one by New Hanover Branch. These are also housed in temporary but comfortable quarters (not the office!).

Now to something very important. Water. At present we are served by a windmill which feeds into two small tanks. The bore-hole is good, but we lack storage space. We have decided to exploit the stream, and to this end have purchased a pump and engine. This will feed into a reservoir on the highest point of the farm and give adequate storage and pressure. The most expensive item will be 3,000 ft. of $\frac{1}{2}$ in. piping. This we have not yet purchased; we are making our needs known and hoping for results! The reservoir is next on the programme after the hen houses; then come the pig sties. After that we can, perhaps, concentrate on the house. The purchase price of the farm was £2,750, of which £1,900 is still unpaid. There is a bond bearing interest at 6 per cent. The manager is paid £30 per month and keeps himself. As with most Toc H jobs, this one has been undertaken with a lot of faith and not much capital.

ALBERT CHARLES,
P.O. Box 8, Thornville Junction, Natal.

IT'S LIKE THIS

Every now and then a Branch in Britain feel a commendable urge to get on friendly terms with a Branch overseas. We do our best for them but realise that writing letters isn't everybody's cup of tea, and the good intentions sometimes peter out for lack of response. I wonder if it would be better if the idea were practised in reverse, and overseas units would tell us if they wanted to correspond with a unit over here?

Being on our home ground we could easily find a unit who would very happily respond to such an invitation. So will you who are "overseas" let us know if you would like to link yourselves by corresponding with a Branch in Britain?

G.R.R.M.



CAMUS TUATH

by JOHNNIE MacMILLAN

"If you have the Gaelic" says the Scottish Secretary, "you would know that this means 'North Bay', and if you haven't the Gaelie, think what a lot in life you miss."

NORTH BAY is not in Alaska, but it is on the island of Mull, just out from Oban, and it is a sea salmon fishing station, roughly half-way between Bunessan and Fionphort. This is a primitive spot, unspoiled by the bright lights, but modernity is creeping in—the electric light is now only two miles away, and there is a cocktail bar, not a large one, but a powerful one, not as far away, in a new hotel. However, the party living at Camus Tuath during the Glasgow Fair fortnight had no great interest in the electric light or the cocktail bar. Six young apprentices, and the Scottish Secretary and his family, were there to experiment in a new kind of holiday.

To get to Camus it is necessary to cross some two miles of moorland, which in wet weather is a trifle damp, and even in dry weather is a trifle damp; there are several ditches to be crossed and the bridges over these were renewed one fine day by the party. How enjoyable hard work seems to be when

one is doing something you see to be worth while; the carrying of heavy props and tools by hand, as the path is not kind even to a wheel barrow, takes on an air of fun and games, even when you fall into the peaty water, you roar and splutter with laughter. It is a pity that the mainland job does not allow this enjoyment, even in the finished process there is not much for laughter, or sense of responsibility.

Collecting driftwood for fires, which has to be carried long distances, as coal is very expensive, becomes an exciting adventure: there are beautiful sandy bays and you must swim; there are caves to be explored, and to get into them is a challenge, which you accept, and afterwards realise with satisfaction that it was quite a test of agility.

Nature trail

The Carsaig Arches has a sound of the mysterious in the ears of Glasgow apprentices, and there is a question to be answered, so off we set, early in the morning to catch the only bus service on this part of Mull. We have a walk of four miles to Carsaig on the south west face of Mull, and then five more miles along the cliff top hoping to find the Nuns Path to the shore. We find it, though the path is not very obvious, and appears to drop straight down, and does, as we find on our return. The Nuns Cave is investigated, and we find some ancient drawings and faint writings on the freestone walls of the cave. The earliest found by us was 1317. We set off along the shore on a path which is more often not, and so the way is across the rocks, and doing this for three hours is tough going. A stop is made for lunch and of course a swim beforehand—costumes are not necessary—the mainland of Scotland is a long way off to the south, and the cliffs tower above to over 1,000 feet. The wild life is abundant; seals, otters, porpoises, and sea birds of all kinds, one side; wild goats, young deer, hare and rabbits, and other unidentified animals on the other side continuously draw the attention, but the most compelling is two pairs of eagles, falling and rising in the warm air currents around the tops of the cliffs.

We finally reach the arches, nature's craftsmanship in all its beauty, great pillars, windows and doorways, hewn out of the rocks by the sea; the formation is similar to Staffa, and the Giant's Causeway, but to us there was nothing else like it—it really is out of this world—hundreds of sea birds, whirling and calling, remind us of an orchestra and choir. With regret we turn back, and after what seems an eternity, we board the

bus where we left it in the morning. We walked a very hard eighteen miles, collected a few blisters, but saw, and many felt for the first time, as one of the lads said, "God".

We talked every evening, and indeed on many other occasions, of all topics possible, we worshipped together every morning and evening. We did not complete our plans; in the last three days we had a storm which prevented us from climbing Ben More, our last exercise, and I was encouraged by the deep sense of annoyance apparent in the lads; these three days were the only wet ones we had. Living as a family, each in turn was responsible for the running of the household; discussing and planning together outings and special tasks. Learning a great deal about community living, about work and worship, and certainly finding out that working together, walking and climbing together is by far a better way to holiday than in some of our more glamorized places.

The cost was £2 : 10 : 0d., per person, per week, the accommodation simple and comfortable, the food excellent—we had salmon in various forms, at least six times during the two weeks. Here is a holiday that is different, exciting, and unusually enjoyable—come on you young men—apply now.



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'... only the flea ...'

by SAM EVANS

"I AM ONLY THE FLEA which bites the lion of society to make it react" is how the Abbé Pierre has recently described himself, and *Ragman's City* is the second book* to be written by Boris Simon describing the amazing growth and development of the Abbé's famous experiment in helping the homeless and the hopeless of Paris to help themselves. Translated by Sidney Cunliffe-Owen, this book continues the story of the Abbé and his Companions of Emmaus, of their fight against poverty, homelessness and the failure of modern society to eliminate the evils of hovels and the lack of self-respect which have invaded the lives of many thousands of the Abbé's fellow-countrymen.

It is a moving and inspiring story; not a fight for charity, but for justice, "the right to live". Here is the Church, in the person of this French priest and his associates, getting down to the job of caring—and caring desperately—for people's bodies as well as their souls, breaking down conventional barriers, piercing the consciences of the privileged classes with the reality of social injustice, the Abbé himself fighting against the dangers of popularity.

We find the spirit of Christ expressing itself in a rag and bone business on which the Abbé's resettlement scheme has been built up. The book consists of a number of vivid pictures of the Companions at work, of the incredible and generous response by the French public to the Abbé's appeals for help in money and clothing, of the tent shelters erected on unused sites and rubbish dumps in Paris, of the spread of the communities, of the effects of this movement on the lives of individual men and women, of the requisitioning (not official!) of empty houses and making them habitable for needy families.

The Government and local authorities have been stirred to action and spurred on by this Christian man, who having tasted monastic life in his 'teens, became a parish priest, worked with the Maquis during the last war, and afterwards was elected a Deputy in the French Parliament. Rich and poor have been affected by his contagious concern for the

* *Ragman's City*. By Boris Simon. (Harvill Press, London. 15s. Od.)

needs of others: Communists, disobeying party orders, have joined the movement as volunteers, and sceptics, who have rejected Christian dogma, have said: 'This is the real religion'.

Here, as with the worker-priest, the development of the House-Church, and other experiments, the Church has come alive, and is demonstrating in the only adequate way it can that it is indispensable. Describing the experience of a certain well-to-do woman, whose life has been deeply affected by the Abbé's movement, the book goes on to add: "Several friends, mentally lazy and full of fears, searching for a meaning to their lives, and to life itself, declared to her that they had discovered an infallible justification in this activity; one rose above one's own problems by consecrating oneself to the service of others".

This is a great Christian adventure about which Toc H members should know more. Men are meeting Christ in helping each other and in working and living together in these new communities, rescued from degradation, homelessness and despair. Once more, in this priest and his movement, men are seeing the relevance of the Christian Faith. The fact and importance of the Incarnation are being revealed in this loving service to the needy, which has been called "one of the greatest and most courageous social adventures of our time".

A FILM CATALOGUE



'ONLY THE FLEA'

When planning cinema shows for mixed audiences the borrower has to be the judge of what is likely to suit and satisfy. Secretaries of Toc H film units will be particularly interested in the range of subjects outlined in the new Unilever 1957/8 Film Catalogue and a copy of this attractively produced brochure can be obtained by writing direct to: Unilever Film Library, Unilever Ltd., Blackfriars, London. E.C.4.

*A Hausa man from Northern Nigeria
from the cover design by Peter Gauld*

ROCK *the* TOC

by LES WHEATLEY

Notts and Derby Area Secretary

IT ALL STARTED when Sid Light, of the new Sandiacre group, was asked by a young friend of his if Toc H would run a jamboree for five skiffle groups in the district. Sid, not being a square, grabbed quickly and brought it to the next meeting of the Erewash District Team. The Team, being a shade squarer than Sid, appointed a sub-committee but wisely included some skiffle groupers. Within a commendable and an incredibly short space of time the world around Long Eaton was invited to make a date for continuous dancing at a Jazz and Skiffle Jamboree.

Pretty nearly four hundred of that world turned up on the night. A minor flap took place at the outset when no complete band had arrived but a steady stream of rock 'n' roll fans had. Fortunately the missing links of the Dixielanders turned up and tension was dispersed to the tunes of jazzed-up negro spirituals. With only slight breaks, music—rhythm, jazz, skiffle, Dixielander—never let up till closing time, three hours later.

The enthusiasm not only for dancing but for listening was terrific. All the bands had their own Tommy Steeles or Lonnie Donnegans (and good 'uns they were too), and the sight of cool cats gyrating in all directions at the same time, with the rest standing around 'sent' heaven knows where, was quite a spectacle. Not alone, however, was it a distinctive musical feast. It was a modern and again quite distinctive dress parade. There were drape coats, drain pipes, velvet collars, string ties, Bill Maynard pullovers and every style of hair dress from crew cut to the most luxuriant Tony Curtis.

Perhaps the outstanding feature was the absence of any serious overspill of enthusiasm. In the crowded and rhythm-stimulated atmosphere, and with a too convenient pub just over the way, anything could have happened. Little in fact did. It might almost have been a parish party.

The attempt to assess the sociological significance of all this would be interesting if endless. One might even speculate on the value of it were it not for the knowledge of the friendships that have been provided with a common ground on which to grow.



FROM ALL PARTS *DIRECT from AREAS*



The Children's Outing at Walsden, organised by Tandle Hill District.

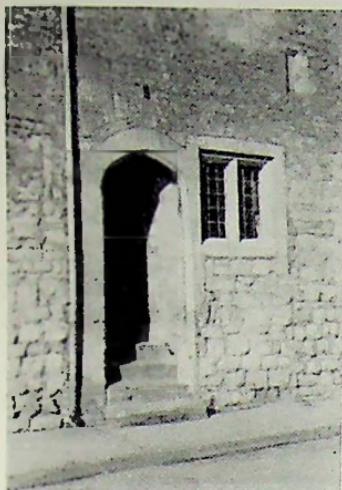
MANCHESTER Children's Camp has now been established eight years. This August nearly 250 Manchester and district children have had a week's holiday at Rhyl. Tandle Hill District entertained over 100 children at Walsden. Oldham Branch arranged a service of thanksgiving to coincide with the one at All Hallows. Great Harwood Branch helped to organise a Garden Party to finance an outing for the residents of the local Old People's Home. Holmes Chapel Branch have just finished another 'safe cycling' course for twenty-five children, eighteen of whom passed. They have also helped the revival of Scouting in their district by providing accommodation, which they also do for Cubs, Brownies and Guides. Wool Gathering is an Area effort initiated by Didsbury Branch in the person of Ken Lloyd which aims to help the Family Purse. JACK SHAW.

WESTERN—The Toc H Bristol Hospitals Broadcast Society has now been able to link up the Winsley Chest Hospital, approximately twenty miles distant from Bristol, and hope to link up other hospitals in the Bath district. The new group at Matson, Gloucester, have started to concern themselves with the old and young people on the estate, visiting the Old Folk's Home regularly and contacting the local Children's Home, members having the children in their own homes on Saturdays and Sundays. Once again Street Branch are busy making preparation for their Annual "Petticoat Lane". Congratulations and best wishes on their ordination to Colin Hill, one-time assistant Warden of the P.M. Boys' Club, and late Student Chairman of the University of Bristol Toc H Lunch Circle, and to Philip B. Myatt, a member of Durdham Down Branch.

FRED BROOKER.

SOUTHERN—We are delighted to report the existence of a new group at Ventnor, I.O.W. The secretary is C. H. G. Watling, 15 Park View Villas, Upper Gills Cliff Road, Ventnor, and a great gathering of members and friends is expected when Colin Stevenson, East Midlands Area Secretary, presents them with a Rushlight on November 13. The liaison between Harborne Branch, Birmingham and Bournemouth District Branches was again effective in providing a week's holiday during August for twenty-four Midland schoolboys. Added staff this year were five senior boys from affiliated schools.

GREENO.



Abingdon Branch meets regularly in this 13th Century building which once formed part of a Benedictine Abbey.

NORTH WALES—During August the Toc H Holiday Camp for children from Manchester and Salford was held in Rhyl. This is a good example of combined operations between Areas. At the Rhyl end the Branches provide the working party to prepare the camp which means taking over an ancient church school (kindly lent by the Vicar of Rhyl), cleaning and decorating the rooms, laying on gas and water supplies, erecting and preparing bunk beds for forty children, and satisfying the requirements of the Public Health Department for such a scheme. Manchester provides the children and the camp staff. Expenses are covered by funds raised in Manchester and Rhyl. This year the period was extended to five weeks and a week's holiday by the sea, with an exciting programme of entertainment and excursions, this provided for 200 children. No praise is too high for the co-operation, patience, skill and good humour shown by everyone engaged in this grand job. The Silver Lamp of Wales, which has been in the care of the North Wales Branches for the past four years, is to be placed for a short period in the Toc H chapel at Meadowslea Sanatorium. JOHN JONES.



Derby Evening Telegraph.

Hands held out for inspection at Derby Toc H Camp for boys held at Osmaston Manor

S. & S.E. LONDON—About eighty Toc H members and friends were present at Addington for the presentation of their Lamp to the Palace Green (Addington) Branch, by 'Barkis'. The Lamp was associated with the memory of Alec Paterson of whose life and work 'Barkis' spoke to an appreciative audience. The Lamp was dedicated by Padre Sam Evans, and the new Branch was also presented with a Lamp stand by the parent Branch, New Addington. John Atkinson chaired the meeting. Shooters Hill District are sponsoring broadcast commentaries of Millwall football matches to patients in the New Cross General Hospital and St. Giles' Hospital, Camberwell. These broadcasts began with the opening of the season. SAM EVANS.

BEDS. & HERTS.—Stevenage are arranging weekly transport of spastics to a swimming pool. They are helping to prepare homes for Hungarian families and are making winter plans for the International Club which they helped to sponsor. Under the leadership of Syd Swain, 24 Marina Drive, Wolverton, the effort of local Builders towards a new group at Stony Stratford shows promise of success. Wolverton and New Bradwell have raised £265 by a garden party and other efforts in recent weeks. Luton members carried some of their passengers to the coach when they gave a country outing to twenty-six people chosen by doctors as being in need of a change. "Why do we observe Whitsun?" asked a Sandy school-teacher during religious instruction. "So that Toc H can run our children's sports", was the innocent answer. FRANK R. FIGG.

N. LONDON—Tottenham members have been busy with the complete redecoration of the two rooms they occupy in the British Legion Headquarters in High Road. The result is clean, bright and cheerful—just what a Toc H meeting-place ought to be. A multiple Sclerosis Group for the district has resulted from the activities of Barret, who are paying the expenses of a news-sheet entitled "M.S. News". The Branch has provided a secretary for the new organisation, and the treasurer also is an old Barnet member. **Muswell Hill** will shortly be looking around for new premises, as their present meeting-place is to be demolished to make room for a new Methodist youth hostel and the headquarters of the Methodist Youth Department.

MAYNE ELSON.

NORTHERN—On August Bank Holiday, 800 balloons went up from Saltburn-by-Sea and the winning balloon landed at Montrose. When Cleveland District held their annual outing for the blind of the district, about 130 guests with guides had a day at Whitby followed by tea at Staithes. Garden Fêtes have been held by West Pelton (their first) and Houghton-le-Spring. Redcar and Darlington Branches combined to give a day's outing by the sea to 'young friends from Darlington.

CHARLES YOUNG.



A Toc H van at the Bracknell New Town Carnival, entered by the newly-formed Bracknell mixed Group.

OXFORD & THAMES VALLEY—An unusual week-end conference was held in Aldworth Rectory. A dozen men, mostly from the **Thatcham** and **Compton** Branches in the **Newbury** District, took over the empty rooms, and ate and talked in the furnished ones. Men from the District gave the talks. 'Barkis', who was the special guest, asked the questions and made comments. It was a successful method. 'Barkis' was given a bed and the others brought mattresses, blankets, bales of hay, inflatable dinghies, or foraged on the spot for the night's rest. One young man just lay down on the floor and was asleep before the rest. All this cost us six shillings apiece, and it would not have cost that except that we saw no reason why the full cost of the food should fall on our host, the Rev. G. W. Daughish. Roy Chapman, of **Thatcham** Branch, had excellently organised the whole week-end. On the Sunday, a Memorial Service was held for Laurence Binyon whose grave is in the churchyard. It was a strange and particular meeting, the poet of "They shall grow not old . . ." adopted by Toc H; and 'Barkis', the designer of the Lamp, speaking of him in the church, to Mrs Binyon and to Toc H members. In this out-of-the-way place, not many Toc H members were expected but the church was full of them.

OLIVER WILKINSON.

E. LONDON—Once more this winter Toc H Branches in S.E. Essex District will be giving film shows to old people's homes and hospitals in Southend, and will be extending their rota of visits to a number of Homes which have come into existence since last winter. Other activities include a renewal of commentaries on football matches relayed to local hospitals, and also the provision of a Social Club for the soldiers at Shoeburyness Garrison. Arrangements are being made for Loughton to celebrate its Twenty-first Birthday on November 23. The Founder Padre has promised to be present at the evening meeting which will be preceded by a Service and tea and any members outside Forest District wishing to attend are asked to write to: Clem Davenport, 155 Roding Road, Loughton, Essex.

MAYNE ELSON.



Harrow Branch for many years have had a fine hanging sign outside their meeting-place. This picture was taken when it was recently renovated.

SCOTLAND—Tillicoultry have had their usual Toc H Week, organising concerts for old people and dances for the younger folk. The men of Erskine Hospital were again entertained at the Alva Games, and to a very good meal. Renfrew are making real efforts to establish again in their town a unit of Toc H, and assisted by members of the Paisley Branch it is hoped that this coming winter will see regular meetings. Many Branches have taken groups of old and young away to the sea-side and country for the day. Cumbernauld were hosts to a group of young people from the Glasgow Polio Club, and this Branch have also been busy crowning the local 'queen'. Several Districts are concentrating on extension, especially in Aberdeenshire, Perth, Angus and in West Lothian. The Scottish Executive are getting together for a one-day conference in Edinburgh, and Iain Fraser, Padre Arthur Howard, and Lyndsay Orr will be speaking on Toc H in the World Situation—Where do we fit in? A get-together of the Scottish Family will be held in Edinburgh in the spring of 1958, plans are well ahead for this meeting.

JOHNNIE MACMILLAN.



Headquarters, Areas and Houses of Toc H

October, 1957

Headquarters:

47 FRANCIS STREET, WESTMINSTER, LONDON, S.W.1. (VICTORIA 0354)

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Administrative Padre: THE REV. R. J. DAVIES.

Field Commissioner: THE REV. H. LEGGATE, M.C.

Editorial Sec.: B. BARON, O.B.E. *Finance Sec.:* J. HARRISON,

Schools and Service Sec.: A. G. CHURCHER. *Bursar:* K. A. ROGERS.

Editor, Toc H Journal: F. G. CHESWORTHII. *Houses Sec.:* J. H. CLARK,

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General Secretary: R. R. CALKIN, O.B.E.

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Areas and Houses in The United Kingdom

*Communications for District, Branch and Group Secretaries
should be addressed c/o THE AREA SECRETARY, or other officer
concerned.*

A.S.=Area Secretary.

A.P.=Area Padre.

H.A.C.=Hon. Area Correspondent.

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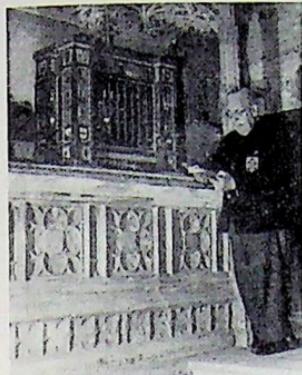
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